taken to upgrade Mangatore airport as an international airport. However, work on construction of new runway with associated pavements and facilities for international operations have already been started. State Government has been requested to provide additional land required for construction of new integrated terminal building and taxi-way, fire station and control tower between the two runways.

Facilities to Stranded Passengers at Mumbai Airport

2836. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Air India and Indian Airlines, due to cancellation and diversion of flights following the closure of Mumbai airport due to heavy rains; and

(b) what facilities were provided by Airlines and Airports Authority of India to the stranded passengers in Mumbai and other major airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have suffered a loss of about Rs. 4.09 crores, Air India have not yet assessed the losses.

(b) The facilities provided to stranded passengers in Mumbai and other airports included the following: (i) Restaurant and Snack bar operators were advised to keep additional quantity of eatables and drinks; (ii) Additional seating arrangements were made in lounges, security hold areas and visitors area; (iii) Rules for allotment of retiring rooms were relaxed to accommodate elderly, parsons accompanying small children etc.; (iv) Information regarding flights was continuously disseminated on public address system; (v) Additional staff was deployed to maintain cleanliness in the toilets; (vi) Additional arrangement for drinking water was made; (vii) Round the clock medical aid was provided to needy passenger; (viii) Senior officials of AAI were available on round-the-clock basis to personally monitor and supervise the various facilities and (ix) The portion of Terminal l-B which was under modification was used to accommodate stranded passengers.